

TOMAGO COMMUNITY MEETING – 15 November 2010

Commenced: 10am Venue: Tomago House

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1 Apologies

None received.

2 Present

Wendy Howell (resident), Margaret Wilkinson (resident), Brenda Stephenson (resident), Bev Cotton (resident), Craig Marler (ADWJ), Scott Day (ADWJ), Scott Robinson (ADWJ), Barney Collins (EJE), Jason Condon (EJE), David Aspinall (WEPL), Kurt Robinson (WEPL), David Rutter (Daracon), and Ian McNicol (ADWJ), Clint Wilkinson, Jim Swords, Kathy Gresham (EJE), David Uphill (RTA).

3 Previous minutes

Previous minutes (September meeting) were accepted by all present.

4 Site environmental monitoring

One complaint had been received from Keith Stephenson regarding water in drains. The complaint was immediately resolved by Daracon.

The incident was related to temporary dewatering of the WEPL basin for construction purposes. This was a one off incident only. The dewatering had exceeded the capacity of the drains and was backing up through the network.

5 Project progress / upcoming works

Scott Day reported to the meeting on a range of upcoming works.

The 4 houses still on WEPL property along Tomago Rd (lot 1001, Northbank) are to be demolished but contracts are yet to be awarded.

Intersection works to provide road access into the site are likely to commence in late January early February 2011.

The tender process for construction of the WesTrac building on the site is underway. It is hoped to award a construction contract in December 2010. Construction is likely to start towards the end of January.

David Aspinall advised on progress with the Northbank project (lot 1001) over the balance of the WEPL site. It will be pursued as a Part 3A project for subdivision of the site with a target lodgement date of December 2010.

6 Community feedback

There was discussion of the problem outlined under 4 above.

Considerable concern was also expressed in regard to increased water flows to the WEPL basin and subsequently into local drains.

The problem, as identified by Clint Wilkinson, was that additional flows into the drain system could compromise drainage of the adjoining properties to the east. WEPL and ADW Johnson undertook to immediately investigate the problem and take any necessary corrective action. (See post meeting notes below)

Jim Swords identified a potential problem with the proposed intersection traffic. There was a possibility that Graham Drive would be used to bypass the lights. Also would traffic queuing from lights interfere with Graham Drive residents leaving Graham Drive? Scott Day undertook to investigate the issue with RTA.

Landscape plans for the WesTrac site were presented to the meeting as a response to a request of the previous meeting. More detail on the number of trees to be planted would be presented to the next meeting.

7 Next meeting

A tentative date for late January was set for the next meeting. The venue will be Tomago House, to be confirmed.

8 Post Meeting Advice

- a) Scott Day and Ian McNicol discussed the drainage issues with Clint Wilkinson after the meeting. A concrete barrier between the WEPL main drain and drains on private property was suggested by Clint. The drain barrier would be supplemented by pumping from private property by the land owners.
- b) Daracon closed the water level control structure to the WEPL basin off in the afternoon of the meeting. This contained all flows within the WEPL basin and no further discharge to the drain until the matter was further investigated.
- c) Keith Stephenson was followed up to ensure there were no ongoing drainage problems by Ian McNicol on Saturday 20 November. Matters discussed included NPWS drain responsibilities, the need to avoid local drainage problems, the need to work together and the need to resume drainage of the WEPL basin.
- d) Investigations found that the additional flows into the WEPL basin were due to a free surface flow path, below finished surface levels. This was rectified with a

sand plug to the invert of swale completed 18 November?. This has slowed inflows to the rate they have been draining at all year.

- e) The WEPL basin has now been drawn down closer to normal operating levels in a staged approach to mitigate any potential for impact. This has been done in consultation with Margaret Wilkinson, Clint Wilkinson and Bev Cotton. First notice of the drawdown was provided 25 November. This drawdown commenced 26 November and has been inspected daily. At inspection of 29 November, there were no issues of water backing up with Cotton's open drain (which leads from Stephenson's property) and Wilkinson's pipe outlet are both free draining at the same time as the WEPL main drain. All flows are passing through the entry to the NPWS drain, observed to be very thick with vegetation after spring growth. The observation of all properties free draining was notified to Clint Wilkinson 29 November.
- f) Monitoring has continued on a weekly basis through December. The discharge from WEPL basin has continued to 'peter out' and by the end of December, there is no flow from the WEPL basin, but continuing discharge from the Cotton's open drain and Howell's open drain to the confluence of drains adjacent to the Wilkinson pipe. The base flows in these drains is intercepted regional groundwater flowing from Tomago Road toward the Hunter River. The continuing flow in these drains is due to the invert level being lower than the WEPL invert level. The Cotton drain has remained essentially constant baseflow throughout the observation period of November/December.
- g) There are several factors associated with the increased flow experienced which ADW Johnson are continuing to regularly inspect, monitor and investigate with Douglas Partners geotechnical engineers. This includes potentially increased groundwater flow from Hunter Water Corporation's Tomago Sandbeds and the above average rainfall experienced over winter.